

attacked in a similar manner. All were partially decayed, and were lying on the ground. I was unable to find any on the trees which showed any marks of the Woodpecker's bill. The owner of this grove was surprised when I called his attention to the above facts, which were quite new to him. Nor had any of the other orange growers in the neighborhood any knowledge of this orange-eating habit of the Red-bellied Woodpecker.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**The Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*) in Connecticut.**—I have the pleasure of recording a few notes on the Fish Crow in this State. For several years I have detected birds of the Crow family along the shore, which, from the notes, method of flight, and apparently smaller size almost convinced me they were Fish Crows, but until this season had no opportunity to verify the belief. On the 10th of May I killed a fine specimen in an extensive tract of swampy woods bordering a salt marsh in Stratford, and saw two others at the same time; the latter, being highly excited at the disappearance of the other, circled about some time calling loudly but finally quieted without offering a shot. Many times afterward I saw the birds, and others, seeing no less than four at one time (May 29), all mature birds. The one secured, although a male, showed evidence of having assisted in incubation, but owing to the dense and almost impassable nature of this swamp no nest was found.

In Fairfield, a pair was seen many times, and a nest found before it was entirely finished, but I watched them so persistently that they soon deserted. They must have reared young elsewhere, as subsequently on several occasions previous to the middle of June they exhibited much alarm at my approach, circling about overhead by the hour in a highly vexed and tireless fashion, following me sometimes for half a mile. Although I saw no young I need no better evidence than their actions to convince me that they were breeding.

Linsley in his 'Catalogue of the Birds of Connecticut' gave the Fish Crow as occurring at "Stratford," but added no further remarks. Within one or two years others have been taken here, of which no record has been published. It is not common, but it may be called not a rare bird, and I think has been largely overlooked from its resemblance to *Corvus americanus*. I feel confident the species also winters here, as I have several times seen what certainly appeared to be Fish Crows, feeding on the sand bars at low tide, retiring to the woods at high tide, and never associating with the common species.—EDWIN H. EAMES, *Bridgeport, Connecticut.*

**Mortality among Eave Swallows.**—A calamity which has affected two or three species in this section may be worth chronicling. Early in the month of June, 1889, I was asked by two or three persons as to what had become of the Eave Swallows (*Petrochelidon lunifrons*), it being reported that but very few were to be seen. An investigation revealed the fact that not over five per cent of them were to be found. They had, however, come in their usual numbers earlier in the season. An examination of the newly completed nests revealed dead birds in nearly every nest. Large

numbers were also found dead on the ground in the vicinity of the buildings frequented by them. Twenty-two nests were examined on one barn, about six miles northeast of this city, and thirty-seven dead birds were found in the nests. About two miles from this barn one hundred nests were examined on a large barn and dead birds were found, one or more in each nest. Five or six miles northwest of the city a like condition of affairs was reported. An investigation in a section of country six or eight north and fifteen or twenty miles south of the city revealed a similar destruction of Eave Swallows; the ground about the barn on one farm was reported "covered with dead birds." The dead specimens examined were exceedingly emaciated, and they apparently had starved to death. Their crops were empty.

Probably the cause of this destruction was as follows. We had about a week of warm weather at the time the Eave Swallows came, this being followed by a prolonged cool period during which time but little insect life could be found, and the birds starved to death. The warm week early in the season may have served to bring the birds North in advance of their usual time. From whatever cause the destruction resulted, the fact remains that in this section of Northern Illinois over ninety per cent of the Eave Swallows have died.

Probably from the same influence that proved so hostile to the Eave Swallows, the Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) has this season much diminished in numbers. As nearly as I can judge we have not over one tenth of the usual number in this section. The Chimney Swifts are also present in greatly reduced numbers. It would be interesting to learn how extensive has been the destruction of these three species.—F. H. KIMBALL, M. D., *Rockford, Illinois*.

**The Yellow-throated Warbler** (*Dendroica dominica*) near Washington, D. C. —On July 28, 1889, while collecting at Four Mile Run, Virginia, a short distance from Washington, Mr. J. D. Figgins and the writer were fortunate enough to secure five specimens of the Yellow-throated Warbler. At the same locality, on August 1, a short search revealed five more specimens, and on August 5, still another bird was taken, making eleven in all. The five taken on July 28 were in very poor condition and beginning to moult, while the other six were in full fall plumage. All were adults.

Previous to the capture of the specimens just mentioned, but two Yellow-throated Warblers had been recorded from this vicinity, the first collected in 1842, and the second taken by Mr. William Palmer at Arlington, Virginia, Sept. 7, 1881. Both are preserved in the National Museum.

This species has been observed more or less commonly at several places south of Washington, in Maryland and Virginia—Quantico, Va., twenty-nine miles from here, being the nearest.—CHAS. W. RICHMOND, *Washington, D. C.*

**Troglodytes ædon, House Wren, Building in a Hornets' Nest.** —Among the variety of novel nesting places chosen by this little bird, I